NORTHERN ISLANDER

$5.00

JUNE 2025

SAY GOODBYE TO THE CLASS OF 2025

APPROACHING ISLAND-WIDE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

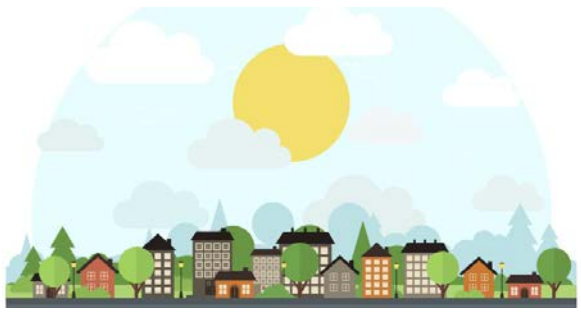
LEARN MORE ON PAGE 4!

TWO ISLANDERS BRING THEIR VISION TO LIFE

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 11!

LONG-TERM, HIGH-QUALITY HOUSING ON THE RISE

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 21!



TRADITIONS LIVE ON: ANISHINAABE REGELIA

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 26!

ANOTHER HONORABLE ISLANDER

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 24!

KIDS' CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN

LIMITED AVAILABILITY—ACT FAST!

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 3!

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established 1957
Keeping Island History Alive

NORTHERN ISLANDER

is proudly owned and published by the
Beaver Island Historical Society

Board President	Angela LeFevre-Welke
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Hello, Northern Islander Readers!

On Saturday, May 10, 2025, the Beaver Island Historical Society hosted a membership event at which I got the opportunity to speak with many community members and celebrate new beginnings as I continue developing and growing within this role.

And, as I continue to grow in this role, I want our readers—you—to know how valued your contributions are. From the stories that you write and submit each month to the active roles you play in the community, I am proud to play a part in documenting it here in print.

If you have any interest in submitting a story to the paper, email ***editor@beaverislandhistory.com*** and I will gladly review your story. Whether it is a memory you have of the Island, an event you documented, or something about the Island that you simply had to capture in words, send it in for review!

Also, last month you may have noticed an official 'Kids' Corner' page in the centerfold. This page is dedicated to the youth who take the time to scan our paper, even if just for a few moments. We recognize the importance of youth literacy and communication, so we now offer a page just for them!

Sponsoring this page only costs $25 per month and offers you a unique opportunity to contribute to our youth engagement. If you are interested in being a Kids' Corner sponsor, simply email ***editor@beaverislandhistory.org*** or call ***231-622-2192***.

Thank you for being one of our many readers!

Happy reading,
Elsie Burton
Editor of the *Northern Islander*

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BEAVER ISLAND SIGHTINGS

Attention readers: If you have caught a glimpse of Beaver Island around Michigan, the USA, or even across the globe, snap a quick picture and share it with the Northern Islander along with the location you saw it for a shout-out. And, bring your picture into the Old Mormon Print Shop for a prize!

Beaver Island is everywhere!

Send pictures to **editor@beaverislandhistory.org**

A little piece of Beaver Island was spotted in Arlington, Virginia, by Mike Broder

PRINT SHOP PERSPECTIVE

By Lori Taylor-Blitz

Since 1957, The Beaver Island Historical Society has been working to keep Beaver Island History Alive! We advance this goal through a mission of preserving and sharing the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

CELEBRATING OUR VALUED MEMBERS: AN EVENT RECAP

By Brittney Rittof

On May 10, 2025, the Beaver Island Historical Society celebrated its second anniversary of the *Northern Islander*, as well as an immersive presentation of the Anishinaabe Regalia and dance styles by Melissa Wiatrolik. Light refreshments and a cake were provided for the event.

The evening began with Lori Taylor-Blitz introducing the staff of the *Northern Islander*: herself as Executive Director; George Broder as Executive Editor; Elsie Burton, Editor; Brittney Rittof, Editor's Assistant; Melissa Wiatrolik, Executive Assistant; and Lu O'Connor, Bookkeeper. George Broder then welcomed everyone and offered new and future opportunities for the Historical Society and the *Northern Islander.*

After introductions, Melissa Wiatrolik began her presentation on Anishinaabe Regalia and the different dance styles. Anishinaabe Regalia refers to the sacred outfit and dressings made specifically for each dancer, and type of dance, at a traditional PowWow. Female dances include Jingle Dance, Fancy Shawl, and Traditional Dance. Male dances include Traditional Dance, Grass Dance, and Fancy. Each dance and regalia tells a story. For instance, the women's Jingle Dress was created after a young girl became sick and had a dream of a dress that would heal her, thus became a dance of healing performed by young dancers. The men's Grass Dance is performed by younger dancers to honor their ancestors who used to flatten the grasses of the Great Plains for their tipi lodges.

The presentation ended with a captivating video of a modern competition of male traditional dancers. The energy, the movements, and the powerful drumming were enough to bring a tear to one's eye—I would know!

A special thank you to all past, present, and future subscribers, supporters, and readers of the *Northern Islander* and the Beaver Island Historical Society. We (literally) couldn't do this without your support.

Pictured: Beaver Island Historical Society Vice President, Tracy Pacquin and Executive Director, Lori Taylor-Blitz.

Pictured: Beaver Island Historical Society Trustee and Northern Islander Executive Editor, George Broder.

GET READY FOR YOUR FAVORITE KIDS' CAMP! REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

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ISLAND TOWNSHIPS SUPPORT SERIOUS BROADBAND STUDY

BEAVER ISLAND ASSOCIATION LEADS CRITICAL EFFORT

By Bill Reed

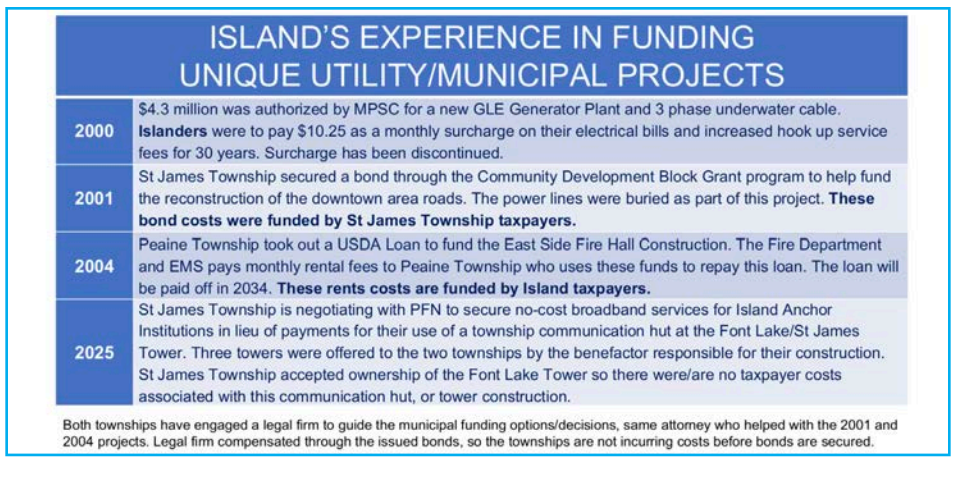
At a joint Townships board meeting on May 5, the Peaine and St. James officials unanimously voted to support a Beaver Island Association-led project to develop a detailed plan to test the feasibility of replacing the Island's antiquated telecommunications infrastructure with a 21st-century, municipally-owned fiber optic network.

The BIA has been awarded a $43,000 Michigan Office of Rural Prosperity (ORP) grant to determine the technical and financial feasibility of building and operating a fiber optic network that will reach every home and business on the Island with high-speed broadband service. Such a system would leverage the coming Peninsula Fiber Network (PFN) linkage between the Island and the mainland, enabling high-speed internet connectivity from anywhere on the Island to anywhere in the world. The joint townships' vote will facilitate the implementation of the ORP-financed study.

BroadbandBI
Connecting Beaver Island to the World
Current project team
Fiber to the Island:
• Peninsula Fiber Network to the Font Lake/St James Tower (network hub)
Fiber on the Island:
• Merit Network Inc. for the School, Library, Health Center, and CMU Biological Station
• Provider for Fiber to the Home needs to be solved and recommendations are presented today.
Beaver Island Township Boards' Advisors:
• Joint Telecommunications Advisory Committee with assistance from the BIA Broadband Team and an Internet Service Provider - Advance Communications and Data

The request for support was presented to the Township officials by Bobbi Welke and Kevin Boyle, representing the BIA and the Townships' Joint Telecommunications Advisory Committee (JTAC). The conclusions and recommendations they presented are the culmination of more than a decade of effort by the BIA and JTAC, drawing extensively on Bobbi's civil engineering expertise and the telecommunications experience of Kevin Boyle and Dick Mulvihill.

In their presentation, Welke and Boyle reviewed several alternative approaches to achieve Island-wide high-speed internet access. None but the municipal ownership model appeared feasible. A Great Lakes Energy option they considered was too expensive. The Beaver Island market is too small to attract a for-profit commercial firm to make the capital investment that would be required. And TDS, the incumbent operator, has demonstrated no commitment to the wholesale replacement of its existing copper network with a modern fiber optic one. After evaluating these alternatives, the BIA has concluded that the most promising approach is to pursue the municipal ownership option.


ISLAND'S EXPERIENCE IN FUNDING UNIQUE UTILITY/MUNICIPAL PROJECTS
2000
$4.3 million was authorized by MPSC for a new GLE Generator Plant and 3 phase underwater cable. Islanders were to pay $10.25 as a monthly surcharge on their electrical bills and increased hook up service fees for 30 years. Surcharge has been discontinued.
2001
St James Township secured a bond through the Community Development Block Grant program to help fund the reconstruction of the downtown area roads. The power lines were buried as part of this project. These bond costs were funded by St James Township taxpayers.
2004
Peaine Township took out a USDA Loan to fund the East Side Fire Hall Construction. The Fire Department and EMS pays monthly rental fees to Peaine Township who uses these funds to repay this loan. The loan will be paid off in 2034. These rents costs are funded by Island taxpayers.
2025
St James Township is negotiating with PFN to secure no-cost broadband services for Island Anchor Institutions in lieu of payments for their use of a township communication hut at the Font Lake/St James Tower. Three towers were offered to the two townships by the benefactor responsible for their construction. St James Township accepted ownership of the Font Lake Tower so there were/are no taxpayer costs associated with this communication hut, or tower construction.
Both townships have engaged a legal firm to guide the municipal funding options/decisions, same attorney who helped with the 2001 and 2004 projects. Legal firm compensated through the issued bonds, so the townships are not incurring costs before bonds are secured.

Commenting on the outcome of the meeting, Greg Larson, President of the Beaver Island Association, said: "The BIA respects the leadership and combined knowledge of both Township Boards. Their support and trust mean we can continue to research the best way possible to improve broadband internet connectivity for all of us."

Preliminary work on the municipal ownership study has already begun. Based on that work, Boyle and Welke presented estimates indicating that a municipally-owned fiber optic network could be built and operated for less cost than the current TDS internet—while delivering higher reliability and at least four times the speed. The BIA will use the grant funding to hire an experienced network contractor who will develop a complete engineering plan with related investment and operating cost estimates. Financing options, along with marketing and operations management plans, will also be developed.

Welke and Boyle reported that the BIA has selected Advanced Communications and Data (ACD) as the contractor who will design and engineer the fiber optic network. ACD is the operator of the Lyndon Township, MI municipal network and has designed and operates similar networks throughout the Midwest. Merit Network, a consortium of Michigan universities, will be retained to conduct marketing studies to gauge demand on the Island for specific service alternatives. The results will also inform the design of the network itself.

The BIA expects that contracts with these two vendors will be in place, and work begun, by the end of May. Islanders can expect to see both contractors at work on the Island soon thereafter.

Observing that "there is no other known way to do this," Bobbi Welke laid out an aggressive schedule for the overall project. The study process is expected to be concluded well before the fall of 2026. This will enable time for several public information sessions leading up to a referendum vote for the millage required to finance construction of a municipally-owned fiber optic network by November of 2026. PFN, for its part, is currently planning to "light up" its fiber linkages to the mainland in 2027. Based on this schedule, the build-out of the local broadband internet network on the Island could be well advanced just in time to take maximum advantage of the internet superhighway coming our way.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Celebrate your Dad this Father's Day!
Sunday, June 15th
Thank you to all of our Beaver Island Dads!

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Pay for 10 Games, $250
Get 11th Game Free!

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Additional Family Member - $395

Annual Youth Membership
Ages 12-18 - $285

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Tried and True Family Favorite Recipes

Janet O'Donnell's Zucchini Cookies

Submitted by Rach Becker

EACH MONTH, WE WILL BE FEATURING RECIPES THAT ARE SURE TO HAVE YOU COMING BACK FOR SECOND HELPINGS. THE RECIPES THAT WE GREW UP WITH AND STILL MAKE TODAY.

Teresa Janet (Gallagher) O'Donnell was the oldest of three children born to "Young James" and Theresa (Boyle) Gallagher. She grew up on Beaver Island with her siblings, Eleanor and Brian.

Janet met Richie O'Donnell when they were in school, and years later, they married. They settled in Grand Rapids, where they raised their six children: Diane, Michael, Judy, William, Barbara, and Ronda.

One of Janet's daughters reflected that she had a smile for everyone.

Another daughter added, "Sweet, silent strength is how I saw her at home. But in public, she came alive with her great stories, smiles, and she would make a flea feel welcomed with her personality!"

She and Richie were members of the Beaver Island Club of Grand Rapids for many years.

They found their way back to the O'Donnell farm on Beaver Island in 1999, where they moved back to Beaver Island permanently. They welcomed their kids and grandkids often throughout the years.

Zucchini is in season soon. So this is a perfect time for this recipe to come along. Blasta! (Irish for delicious)

1 cup shortening
1 cup sugar
1 cup brown sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups shredded zucchini
1 cup chopped nuts (optional)
6 ounces chocolate chips
3 1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda

Cream sugars and shortening together until light. Beat in eggs and vanilla until fluffy. Stir in zucchini, nuts, and chips. Mix the flour and soda, and stir them into the batter. Drop by teaspoon onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.

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BEAVER ISLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL

JULY 17, 18, & 19 of 2025

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TRAVEL INFORMATION

Island Airways | (800) 524-6895
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CAMPING INFORMATION

Beaver Island Hideaway Campground
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2025 LINEUP:

Audrey Dupuis
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Birdie Country
The Whiskey Charmers
Jonathan Plevyak
The Real Ingredients
Carver Commodore
Katy Gullian and the Drive
Nathan Walton and the Remedy
Heat Above
Distant Stars
Smilo and the Ghost
G-Snacks
Paul Lamb
Joe Bockheim
Chistopher 'Wink' Winkleman
Dave Boutette and Kristi Davis

Beaver Island District Library

Nibwaakaawin

JUNE IS...

June is Great Outdoors Month and we encourage you to get outside and enjoy all Beaver Island has to offer—boating, canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, hiking, exploring, and playing outside! Looking for ideas? Need some field guides? Stop by the Library to explore the stacks for books you might need to help you celebrate the Great Outdoors Month!

June is National Pollinators Month! Create your own Pollinators Garden. Pollinators are more than just bees. Check out some information at the Library to help you attract pollinators of all kinds. Great project for the whole family. We are also installing our Native Plant Garden in front of the Library. Stop by to see all the fun plants!

June is National Audiobooks Month. We have rejuvenated our Audiobook selection, including fiction and non-fiction for adults and have added selections for kids too! We also offer CD players for you to check out if you need a device on which to play the audiobook. Now is the time to try one and see if Audiobooks are for you. Libby also has a selection for you to check out and listen to on your mobile devices (works great in your cars). Stop in and browse!

ALL READING COUNTS

Graphic Novels
Audiobooks
Braille / Talking Book LIbrary
VOX
Magazines
Read-alouds
Movie Captions
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THAT ALL MAY READ

AUTHOR VISITS IN JUNE

MELISSA KAELIN, JUNE 21 AT 3 P.M. AT THE LIBRARY

Melissa Kaelin is the author of Beyond the 45th Parallel: The Beginner's Guide to Chasing the Aurora in the Mid-Latitudes. She also co-founded the Aurora Summit. Since creating the Michigan Aurora Chasers, she has led more than 10 live chases, helping thousands of people catch the Northern Lights for the first time.

The 2nd Edition of the guidebook, "Beyond the 45th Parallel: The Beginner's Guide to Chasing Aurora in the Mid-latitudes," was released on July 5, 2024.

Melissa has written about rare natural phenomena for many publications, her Aurora Chasing advice is quoted by International Dark Sky Parks, and she has presented many talks on Aurora Mythology, Aurora Forecasting and Night Sky Adventures.

TIM MULHERIN, JUNE 24 AT 7 P.M. AT THE LIBRARY

Tim Mulherin first visited northern Michigan in 1986 and was instantly smitten by it. Now a seasonal resident of Leelanau County, Mulherin has written two books about the region.

Sand, Stars, Wind and Water: Field Notes from Up North was published in 2021. A collection of essays and stories, he wrote about his love of northern Michigan and his, often humorous, attempts to become a Michigander.

His latest book, This Magnetic North: Candid Conversations on a Changing Northern Michigan, focuses on the impact of the Pandemic, climate change and tourism on northwest lower Michigan, including a chapter on Beaver Island!

SEEDKEEPERS CREATES AN ARTIST/NATURALIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM FOR BEAVER ISLAND THIS SUMMER

Seedkeepers, a 501c3 environmental nonprofit, has created a unique artist/naturalist residency program that not only celebrates Beaver Island's natural wonders but also ignites a passion for their conservation and preservation. This initiative fosters the creation of artistic works while simultaneously nurturing a deep connection between artists and the Island's landscapes.

At the heart of this immersive experience lies the SeedKeeper Lodge, a historic farmstead dating back to the 1850s. Nestled within biking distance of the charming village of St. James, this picturesque property serves as a gateway to the Island's 16 unique habitats, including globally rare ecosystems that are found in only a handful of places in Michigan.

The Beaver Island Artist-in-Residence Program offers an opportunity for artists and naturalists to immerse themselves in the island's natural landscapes for two transformative weeks. Writers, composers, visual and performing artists alike are invited to draw inspiration from the Island's diverse landscapes.

This residency not only nurtures artistic growth but also fosters a sense of environmental stewardship. Participants are required to share their experiences through two presentations—one at the Beaver Island District Library and another in their hometown. Additionally, artists donate a piece of work created during their stay, contributing to an ever-growing collection that showcases the Island's natural splendor.

The impact of this program extends far beyond the residency itself. Each year, SeedKeepers will host an exhibit featuring the diverse body of work created by participating artists. This annual showcase serves as a powerful testament to the Island's ability to inspire and transform, while also raising awareness about the importance of preserving these unique ecosystems.

Join us in celebrating the artistic talents of our 2025 Artist-in-Residence participants at the Beaver Island District Library.

All programs begin at 7:30pm

- Paddy Aidan (Kalamazoo, MI) - July 10. Oil, charcoal, and graphite artist whose work captures the raw power of weather events and sensory experiences in nature.

- Elizabeth Claire Rose (Holland, MI) - August 7. Printmaker blending analog and digital processes to explore ecological research, focusing on native plant communities and shared ecologies.

- Valerie Mann (Saline, MI) - August 21. Mixed media sculptor and watercolor artist, creating thought-provoking works with repurposed materials and fiber construction techniques.

- Steve Brown (Kalamazoo, MI) - September 11. Poet whose accessible and awe-inspiring verses serve as a form of gratitude, meditation, and service to the world around him.

BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL - CLASS OF 2025

ALYSSA MARTIN

VALEDVICTORIAN

AGE: 17 years old

PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE: Grand Valley State University

PROSPECTIVE MAJOR: Business and/or Hospitality and Management

EXTRA CURRICULARS:
- Volleyball [Captain, 2023]
- Basketball [Captain, 2023-2025]
- Soccer
- National Honor Society [President, 2024-2025 and Vice President, 2023-2024]
- Student Council [Middle School]
- Youth Advisory Committee [9th, 10th, 11th, 12th Grades]

WHAT ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES LED YOU TO COLLEGE?
Growing up on the island and being involved with family businesses has heavily influenced my future career path. It has shown me a lot about dedication and hard work, and I plan to use those skills in the future at Grand Valley. One of the main reasons I am choosing to attend Grand Valley is because of the island connections in the Grand Rapids area, and I know I will never be far from an islander.

FAVORITE HIGH SCHOOL MEMORY
My favorite high school memory is winning second place in my last basketball tournament with my amazing teammates and coach.

JASON SELBY

AGE: 18 years old

PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE: Northwestern Michigan College

PROSPECTIVE MAJOR: Drone and Automotive Engineering

EXTRA CURRICULARS:
- Robotics [Captain, 2021-2025]
- Basketball

FUTURE GOALS AND PLANS
After high school, I plan to attend Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) in Traverse City to study drones and automotive technology. These programs excite me because they're hands-on and tech-focused—both areas I've always had an interest in. I think drones have a lot of potential in industries like mapping, agriculture, and emergency services, and automotive work gives me a chance to work with machines, something I've enjoyed for a long time. I also have the opportunity to join the Millwrights starting in June 2026. That offer is open-ended, so I have some flexibility to explore my options and see what path fits me best when the time comes. It's encouraging to know that door is always open.

A MESSAGE FROM JASON
I'm proud of where I come from, and I'm excited to see where I'll go from here.

BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL - CLASS OF 2025

AVA PALMER

AGE: 18 years old

PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE:
Northern Michigan University

PROSPECTIVE MAJOR: Business and Marketing

EXTRA CURRICULARS:
- Volleyball [Co-Captain, 2024-2025]
- Student Council

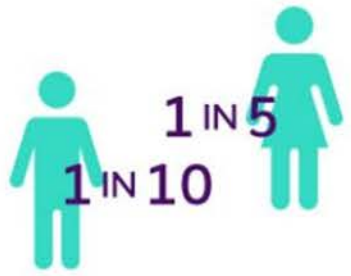
BEAVER ISLAND'S LASTING IMPACT
Growing up on Beaver Island is something that never leaves you. Whether you're local, a tourist, or if you only come around a few times a year, the island leaves its mark on all of its guests. Growing up on Beaver Island was an experience I wouldn't trade for anything else. Sure you do things like riding bikes, and going tubing in other places, but here you go with people you just met at a bonfire, or your lifelong friends and family. When you come to the island you know exactly what to expect. A warm hug from all of its locals, a few days at the beach, and many new memories and friends. I may not have lived on the island my whole life, but Beaver Island always has been, and always will be a part of me. As I continue my journey at NMU in Marquette, I plan on taking all the things Beaver Island has taught me with me. Hold your roots close, create music, and make everybody happy.

One in 3 older Americans dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

It kills more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.

Over 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. By 2050, this number is projected to rise to nearly 13 million.

About **1 in 9 people** age 65 and older has Alzheimer's.



The lifetime risk for Alzheimer's at age 45 is **1 in 5 for women and 1 in 10 for men**.

Nearly 4 in 5 Americans would want to know if they had Alzheimer's disease before having symptoms, or before those symptoms interfered with their activities.

92% of Americans would want to take a medication that could slow the progression of Alzheimer's.

Nearly 12 million Americans provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's or other dementias.

BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER

For more information, visit alz.org/facts

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WOMEN WITH A VISION: GREEN TERRA SANCTUARY

By Michelle LaFreniere

I say this constantly, but Beaver Island is a very special place, filled with extraordinary people from all walks of life. I swear I can sense truly good people within just a few minutes of meeting them.

Susan King (Reverend Dr.) and Sharon Kardia (Ph.D.) are two of those people. I first met them a couple of years ago, as usual, through some aspect of my work. I have seen mostly Susan throughout the last few years. She and Sharon are full-time residents, but Sharon leaves for work periodically. Susan is retired so she gets to stay.

While doing a transaction at work, I mentioned that I had driven by their place, and it was looking so nice. Turns out… that wasn't their home. It is so much more. Their home is next door to the building I saw. I had to know more. I'm just bold enough to ask for an interview, and they are just nice enough to indulge me. I am going to attempt to weave them and the building next door into one interview. Without one there couldn't be the other.

I met with them on a beautiful sunny afternoon. So sunny that they offered me a hat. I declined. I shouldn't have. My face still has a nice rosy hue to it.

It was likely my most laid-back interview so far. The words just tumbled from all three of us. Just getting to them was fun and relaxing. They are close to the end of Mrs. Redding's Trail.

Susan began coming to the Island in the 1980s. She camped the first years. Within the following year she learned about Beaver Island's stone circle. She was studying with a group of Native American women in Ohio, so she knew she needed to come back. She is a member of the Amik Circle. The Amik Circle is a group of people in our archipelago who are committed to preserving Native American sites on our Islands. She brought Sharon up in about 2012 and of course she loved it too. They've stayed in rentals in every corner of the Island.

They do have a connection to the Island in a deep friendship with Glenn Hendrix and his wife Mary King. Susan also had a wonderful kinship with the late Keewaydinoquay.

By 2019 they had increased their time from one week, to two, to three and now an entire month. The house that they ended up buying was literally the only one available for the last two weeks of their desired stay. It didn't look all that great in the pictures online but what choice did they have?

When the gals got to their rental it was a dreary gray color, and it was later learned that it was used as a hunting and fishing camp. There was something about it though, that called to both of them. It was for sale, and had been for three years. They decided to sell Susan's farm and buy this one. They closed on the farm the same day they bought this place. Talk about perfect timing. Five months later the pandemic hit, and we all know what happened to the housing market here.

These days Susan, Maizy, and Misha (their super cute pups) stay close to home while Sharon heads off to work at U of M a week or so each month, more towards the beginning and end of the semesters.

After all the small talk I had to get to the subject of the building next door. It is gorgeous. It has both a name and a purpose. Its name is Green Terra Sanctuary, and its purpose is a really wonderful one. Being no strangers to tragedy, and especially during the pandemic they saw no shortage of trauma, in healthcare workers, in clergy, in families and friends that were never able to properly address their grief. They knew they wanted to create a healing place for all. They will provide programming, as well as visiting instructors.

The hope is for groups, families, spiritual and service organizations to use the space for retreats, quiet writing and reflection, sabbaticals, workshops and healing time in nature. One idea that will be of interest to Islanders, is they plan to offer housing to families of hospice patients. A place to just be. It will also be offered to people who look to grow spiritually, as a space for people who need to grieve, for visioning as well as to reflect. It will not be available on any online platform but rather through word of mouth and the formation of organizational kinships (e.g with the Amik Circle Society, Beaver Island Historical Society, Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, etc.) that would like to use the facility for their programs.

They are developing an amazing website that better explains their mission and purpose and Green Terra Sanctuary will operate on a gift/sustainability model so that families and groups at all levels can benefit from Beaver Island's magnificent beauty.

The building that houses this is very modern but with some very nice touches that make it very warm, welcoming and homey. The cordwood lower level (cedar logs and limestone mortar) that makeup the entrance and one of the great rooms on the lower level were constructed by Sharon's family and their friends. They put in so many special touches. A true labor of love and work of art. The lower level will offer three bedrooms and an ADA compliant bathroom. At the end of the hall will be a coffee station etc. Upstairs you will find a full kitchen and dining area as well as another great room and gathering space. There are two bedrooms and another bathroom on the upper level as well. The view is nothing short of spectacular as you would expect on the west side of the Island.

I would highly suggest you check out their website. It is still in its infancy but offers a much better explanation of who they are and what they are doing.

What a beautiful afternoon. Thanks, ladies! I am sure glad you made Beaver Island your home and that we crossed paths. I can't wait to see Green Terra Sanctuary up and running.

You can learn more about Green Terra Sanctuary by visiting: https://www.greenterrasanctuary.org

10th Annual Sustainability Fair

June 16-21 2025

16 Monday

Tribal Fisheries & Dark Sky Project

7pm- Fisheries Biologist at Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians presentation on Michigamme fisheries
8pm-Beaver Island Dark Sky Project screening, ecological significance and lighting pledge

7-9 pm
CMU Biological Station

17 Tuesday

Energy Day

3pm- University of Michigan Wave Energy Demonstration
7pm- Pacific Northwest National Laboratories Final Energy Report
8pm-Keen energy audit
8:30pm- Slipstream presentation

3pm, 7-8:30 pm
CMU Auditorium

18 Wednesday

Green Innovations & Critical Hope

7pm- Dr. Dan Wickham Sludgehammer Septic Innovations
8pm- Grand Valley State University conversation and community safe space on climate change and critical hope

7-9 pm
CMU Auditorium

19 Thursday

Resilience Camp Site

1pm- Tara's Meadow and Grand Valley State University student resilience camp site construction

1-4:30 pm
Tara's Meadow

20 Friday

Braiding Irish and Native Cultures

3pm- John Two Hawks reception at the historical museum
7pm- Native and Irish Dance at the community center
8-9:30pm- John Two Hawks concert

3 pm, 7-9:30 pm
BI Historical Museum, Community Center

21 Saturday

Tabling & Tara's Meadow Solstice Celebration

9am- Open Ceremony at Paradise Park
10-12pm- Community Tabling Event at BI Community Center
1-5:30pm- Music, Ceremony and snacks for 20 year Solstice Celebration at Tara's Meadow

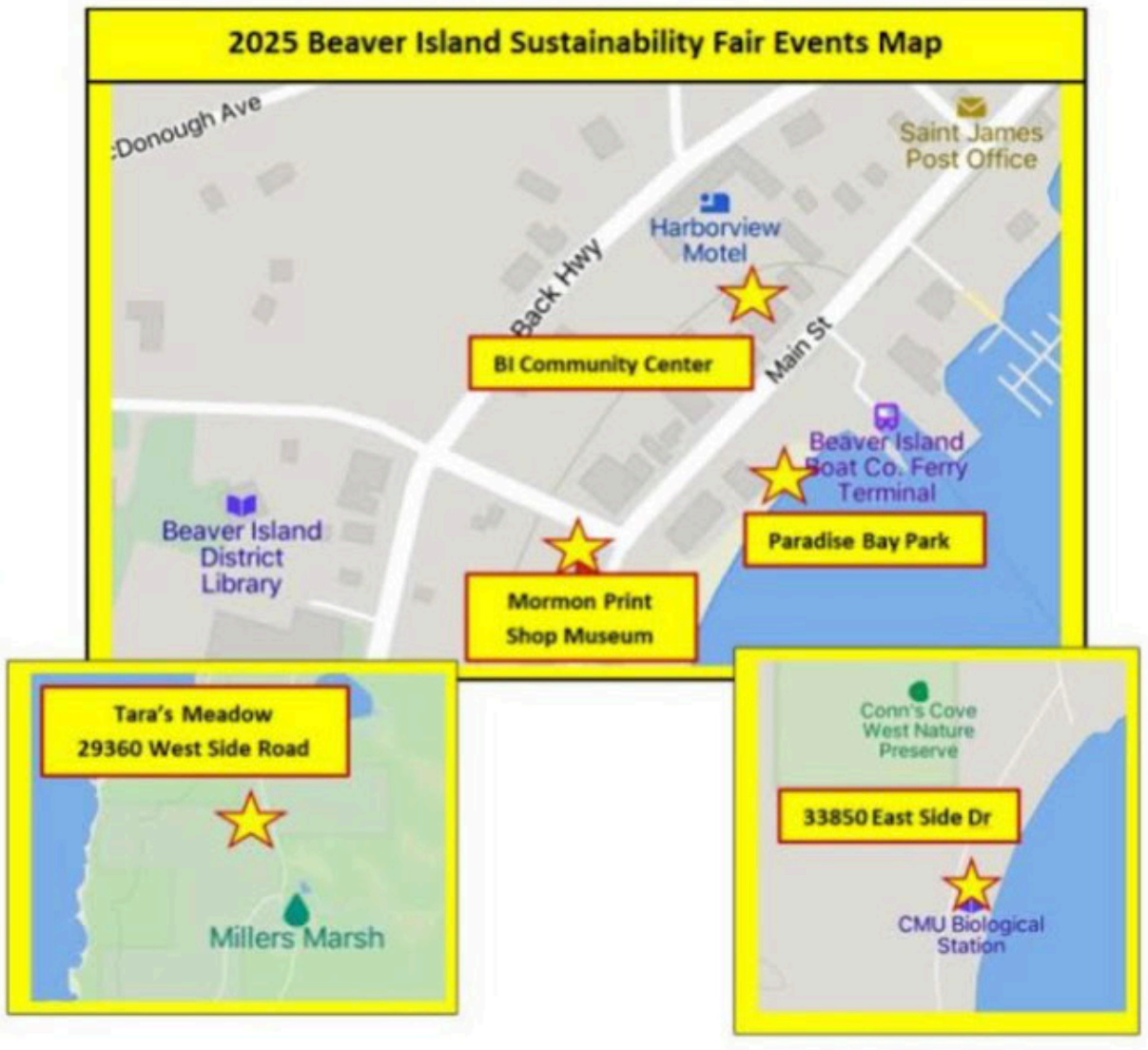
9am-12pm, 1-5:30 pm
Paradise Bay Park, Community Center, Tara's Meadow

Welcome to the 10th Annual Beaver Island Sustainability Fair:

"Braiding Irish & Native American Island Cultures"

Join us at any of the above programs – most are free!

See other side to register for John Two-Hawks Concert, Tara's Meadow Solstice Celebration, & Special "Sacred Four Retreat"



10th Annual Beaver Island Sustainability Fair:
SPECIAL EVENTS!
Braiding Irish & Native American Cultures

John Two-Hawks is a Grammy nominated musician.

A mixed blood person of Irish and Native American heritage, BISF welcomes Two-Hawks as he braids the same generational cultures of Beaver Island through music and storytelling.

Friday 6/20, 3pm – 4pm
Print Shop Museum
Help us welcome John and his wife Peggy at this special intimate event.
Refreshments will be served.

Friday 6/20, 7pm BICC
John Two-Hawks Concert

With special guests: local Irish & Native American Dancers! Tickets $25.
Scan QR to reserve your seat.

Saturday, 6/21, 9am:
Paradise Bay Park - Irish & Anishinaabe Water Blessings.
Join us as we once again bring this annual BISF Ceremony to the shores of beautiful Michigamme. You don't have to be Irish or Native American as we come together in unity and gratitude.

Saturday, 6/21, 1pm – 530pm
@ Tara's Meadow:

Tara's Meadow
20th Anniversary &
Solstice Celebration!

Music, food, Dance,
Dark Sky Sanctuary Walk &
Irish Cairn Circle!

Free Event in the Meadow!

1-2pm: Food & music
2pm: Irish Cairn Circle
4pm: Walk the Meadow, Resilience Camp Tour, Dark Sky Sanctuary, Sun Telescope Gazing

For 20 years Tara's Meadow has offered retreats, sojourns and ceremonies "to educate, uplift and interconnect our students, guests and community members for their greater self-growth & empowerment; and to encourage them to apply their creativity & ecological awareness to the service of all life on this planet."

Sunday, 6/22, 10am-2pm
Sacred Four Retreat

John Two-Hawks will lead us to discover the parallels between the Four Directions Medicine Wheel of Indigenous Culture, & the Four Fire Festivals Wheel of the Celts in this unique "Braiding of Cultures" Retreat

Limited space available.
Scan QR reserve.
Tickets $75

THE SPRING INVASION OF GARLIC MUSTARD

By Cheryl Oliver Kern, Peaine Township Invasive Species Coordinator

With the emergence of spring, we celebrate the renewal of life and the wealth of fresh green growth throughout the landscape. Unfortunately, this season also brings the persistent issue of garlic mustard. Garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata), an invasive species originating from Europe and North Africa, emerges early each spring and is characterized by a garlic-horseradish flavor. Its presence is less "flavorable" due to its invasive nature. Initially imported as a medicinal herb, garlic mustard was found growing wild on the East Coast in the mid-1800s. The absence of local herbivores and competitors has boosted its spread. Though edible for humans, native insects and animals in North America avoid it, including generalist herbivores like white-tailed deer. Garlic mustard exhibits rapid reproduction and distribution throughout native woodlands, including those on Beaver Island.

Garlic mustard has been spreading across North America at an alarming rate of approximately 4,000 square miles per year since the 1800s. This species is distinctive for its ability to invade mature, undisturbed forests, where it can outcompete native tree seedlings and woodland wildflowers. Its rapid proliferation and threat to native species make it extremely difficult to eradicate once established.

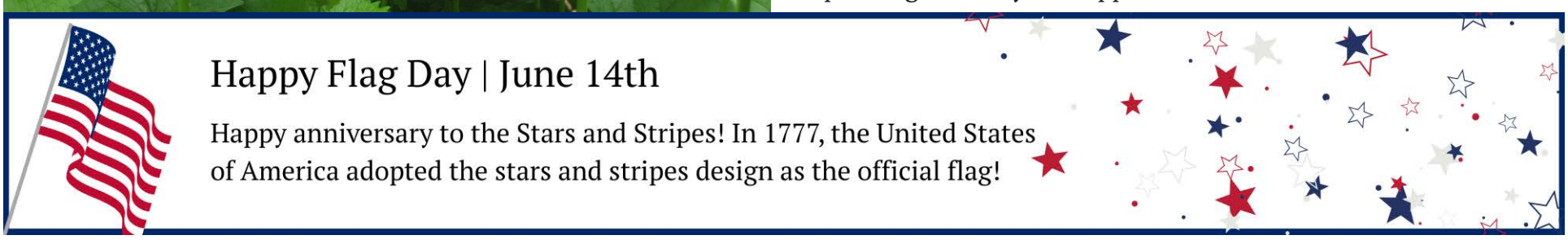
Garlic mustard is a biennial plant that completes its life cycle in two years. In its first year, garlic mustard germinates in spring, forming a circular cluster of heart-shaped leaves that reach three to six inches in height. The plants overwinter under snow and then begin to grow rapidly in late March and April, developing a flowering stalk at a rate of nearly two centimeters per day. As garlic mustard leaves do not die back during winter, they have a competitive advantage over native perennial plants that sprout from the rootstocks.

When fully mature, garlic mustard can attain a height of up to three feet. Flowers appear in late spring of the second year, followed by seed pods known as siliques. A single plant can produce between 3,000 and 4,000 seeds, with seed densities as high as 107,580 seeds per square meter having been recorded. In contrast, native species such as white trillium (Trillium grandiflorum) grow slowly and produce only sixty seeds per plant. Garlic mustard seeds can remain viable in the environment for up to ten years. Consequently, effective control of garlic mustard necessitates sustained efforts over several years, requiring the removal of every single plant to prevent its spread.

Garlic mustard completes its life cycle by late June. Its leaves are poisonous to butterfly larvae dependent on native spring plants, hinder native plant survival, and restrict forest plant growth and productivity. It crowds out woodland plants and releases chemicals that kill beneficial soil fungi. Garlic mustard's success as an invasive species is due to the chemical compounds it exudes into the soil, disrupting native plants' nutrient absorption. This allopathy inhibits competitors and allows garlic mustard to thrive in low-light conditions, even invading undisturbed forests.

To control garlic mustard, one must pull the plant and remove at least half of the root to prevent re-sprouting. Ensure you pull the entire plant, including the roots, before it releases seeds (late May to mid-June on Beaver Island). Do not leave pulled plants on the ground or compost them, as they may re-sprout; dispose of them properly. Avoid chemical applications due to their impact on non-target plants. Clean shoes and tools immediately after leaving an infested area to prevent seed spread.

Previous efforts to control garlic mustard on Beaver Island, including manual removal and boot scrapers at trailheads, have been effective but require ongoing management. Regular use of boot scrapers and spring removal planning is crucial. Garlic mustard is found along Eagle Hill Road, Keebler's Trail, Donegal Bay Road, Island Woods Road, and the South End Lighthouse. The removal this spring will take place from late May to mid-June, depending on this year's appearance.


Happy Flag Day | June 14th
Happy anniversary to the Stars and Stripes! In 1777, the United States of America adopted the stars and stripes design as the official flag!

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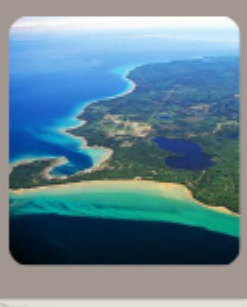

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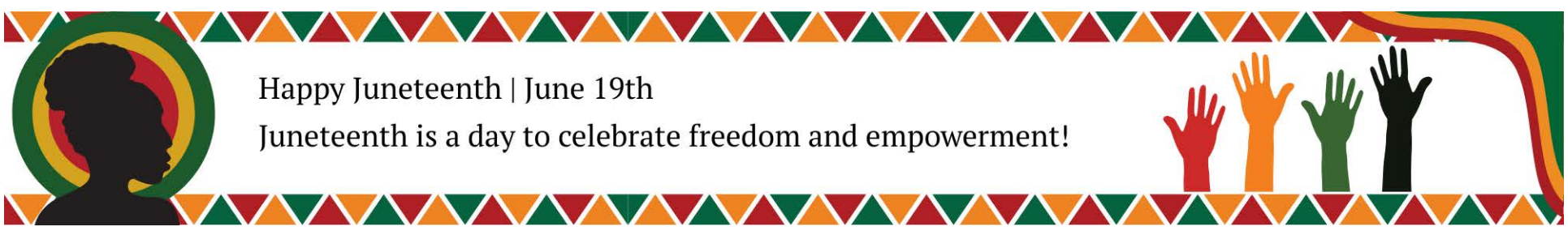


Museum Week Art Show

with a holiday twist!

JULY 16-18

Gregg Fellowship Center

Contact Lois Stipp for more information

Museum Week EVENT SCHEDULE

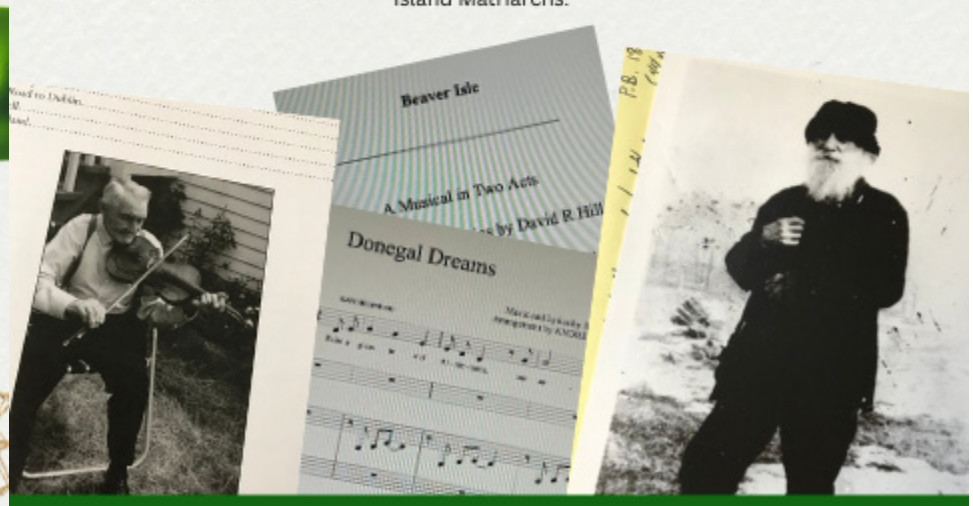
JULY 14-17

MONDAY
Music on the Porch
Island Musicians start at 7 PM.
Bring a lawn chair or use one of ours.

TUESDAY
***Beaver Isle*, the musical:**
Protar & Bonner up close and personal Part 1
A reading of the 2-act play by David R. Hill (with 14 songs)

WEDNESDAY
***Beaver Isle*, the musical:**
Protar & Bonner up close and personal Part 2

THURSDAY
Gutsy Women of Beaver Island
Our 4th Annual recognition event of our beloved Island Matriarchs.



2025 Beaver Island Historical Society Upcoming Events

MAY 10 — Anishinaabe Regalia
Introduction to the different styles of Anishinaabe dance styles and the regalia's. Event starts at 7 pm.

JUNE 6 — Music on the Porch-Sugarbushband
Join us on Friday for an evening of Music with Sugarbushband. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the tunes! Event starts at 7:00 P.M.

JUNE 14 — Print Shop Museum Open House
Open house at the Print Shop museum for the 2025 year. Come and visit and enjoy history from 11-4 pm.

JULY 14-18 — 2025 Museum Week
Discover Beaver Island history with the annual Museum Week celebrating Protar and Gutsy Women of Beaver Island.

JULY 16-18 — Art Show
Museum Week Art Show during the museum week at the Gregg Fellowship Hall 11-4pm.

JULY 21-25 — Kids Summer Camp
Sign up and join us for a week of exciting activities all centered around Beaver Island's natural environment and invigorating community. Registration deadline June 1st.

https://www.beaverislandhistory.org/print-shop/

2025 Beaver Island Historical Society Upcoming Events

AUGUST 11 — Music on the Porch
Join us on a Monday for an evening of Island Music. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy our island favorites! Event starts at 7 pm.

AUGUST 15-16 — 2025 Film Festival
The BIHS presents its 2025 Film Festival. All films are Michigan Made and the producers will be presenting their respective films and chatting with the audience. Evenings at 7 pm and Saturday Matinee time TBD

AUGUST 17 — Beaver Head Lighthouse Open House
This Place Matters Picnic and tours. Event starts at 1 pm.

SEPT 26 — ANISHINAABE TRADITION AND CULTURE VIEWS
Introduction to Great Lakes Anishinaabe way of life and traditional ways of Anishinaabe that live on today. Event starts at 7 pm.

OCT 13 — History of LTBB and GTB Tribes
Learn how these two sister Tribes govern themselves and the history of how they became sovereign. Events starts at 5:30 pm.

DEC 5 — Holiday Social
Join us for the Annual Holiday Social. The museum will be adorned with holiday decorations, so come see us and enjoy. Event starts at 6 pm.

https://www.beaverislandhistory.org/print-shop/
For more information visit the site

BEAVER ISLE, THE MUSICAL

By Brittney Rittof

Beaver Isle, the Musical, written by playwright and composer David Hill, may have been written only just recently, but the inspiration for the musical started many years ago when David was a young man visiting the serene Emerald Island.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, David first visited Beaver Island as a Boy Scout in the summer of 1964 or 1965. He and his troop from Royal Oak spent an entire week clearing brush and creating campsites at what is now the Port St. James Stables Campground.

David's second and perhaps most memorable trip to the Island occurred after his high school graduation in the summer of 1969. It was then that he embarked on a solo camping trip to the Island just before heading off to college. He took the advice from locals and ventured off toward Bonner's Landing. Nearing the end of his hike, David called for directions to an elderly gentleman whom he saw sitting on his front porch. The old man nodded and pointed down Sloptown Road.

Photo of Feodor Protar

That night, David slept under the stars on the sandy beach at Bonner's Landing. The next morning, as he hiked back to town, he was struck by the sound of music coming from the old man's porch. David spied the same elderly gentleman, now playing fiddle like a madman! The man invited David up to his porch, where he shared with David more fiddle music and fanciful stories about the Mormons on Beaver Island and his father, "Black John."

Photo of Pat Bonner

David then went off to college and began his adult life, which provided him a series of adventures in a variety of beautiful work environments around the United States (Santa Monica, Big Sur, and Monterey, California as well as Honolulu, Hawaii) and the world (an idyllic farm in southern Norway and aboard a long-distance oil tanker in the Norwegian merchant fleet). David eventually finished his working career in the role of principal of public charter schools in Grand Rapids and Petoskey, Michigan.

It would be decades before David would visit Beaver Island again. Six or seven years ago was his first time back since 1969. During that short weekend visit he decided to stop in at the Print Shop Museum, where he noticed a fiddle and black-and-white photo on display. It was only then that David discovered that he had previously experienced a face-to-face meeting with the one and only Patrick Bonner!

This discovery led to two years of research about Feodor Protar and Pat Bonner, with the general idea to write a novel based on the unique and enduring friendship these two notable Beaver Island figures shared. When David finally sat down to write in his rented guest quarters belonging to Kirk and Judy McBride, it dawned on him that the novel format could not capture one key element in the story of Protar and Pat Bonner: Bonner's fiddle music! Thus, honoring Protar's history as a thespian and Bonner's legacy as the foremost of Beaver Island's Irish fiddlers, the story quickly evolved into today's Beaver Isle, the Musical.

Photo of David Hill

The action in the play takes place primarily during the summer of 1913 and includes both dramatic and musical descriptions of numerous aspects of Beaver Island life – with an emphasis on the considerable contributions of Protar to his neighbors and fellow islanders. Each of the 14 songs, with music and lyrics composed by David and arranged/orchestrated by a collaborator from Ukraine(!), highlights some aspect of Beaver Island life, with Protar and/or Bonner usually playing a lead role. For example, there's a song about the Beaver Island Lumber Company. Another mournful tune, Donegal Dreams, pays homage to Arranmore, the ancestral home of more than a few Irish immigrants who found their way to Beaver Island.

A reading of Beaver Isle, the Musical, will be performed during Museum Week on July 15-16 at 7 pm. The performing ensemble is still in need of male readers and singers for this presentation. If you are interested in volunteering to be a part of this very special event, please contact the Beaver Island Historical Society Museum.

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Keeping Island History Alive
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F O X I R C I N W O L Z P J O
K W D O L B F R F E L T A F P
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V G U A T M I Z D O O E K P O
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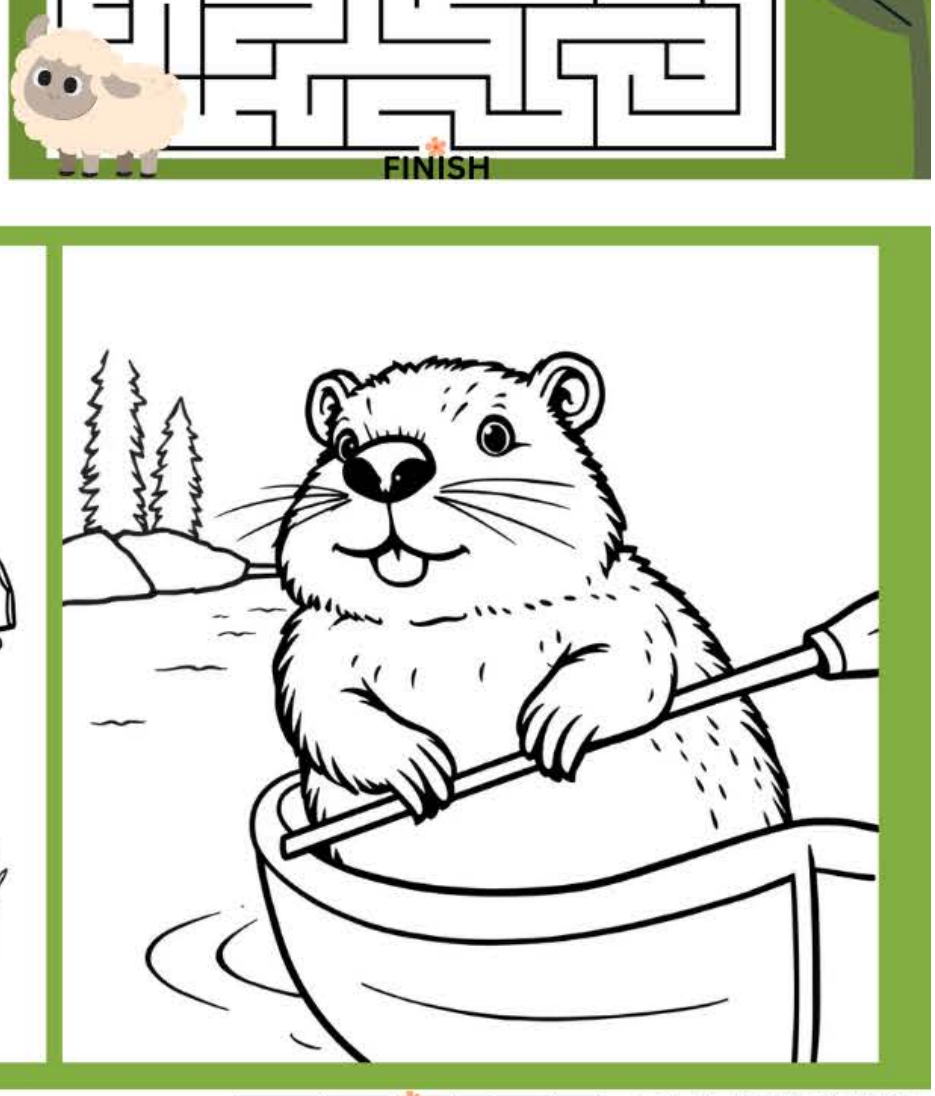
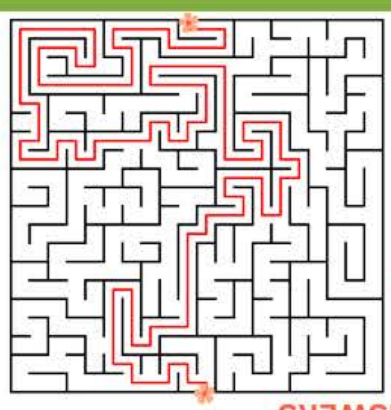


Don't forget to bring your completed kids' page to the Beaver Island Print Shop Museum for a prize!

AND, send a picture of you and your page to **editor@beaverislandhistory.org** to be featured in the monthly paper!



ANSWERS

COMMUNITY COLLAGE

BANQUET 2025

Photos submitted by Sophie McDonough

BEAVER HEAD LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION 2025

Photos submitted by Lori Taylor-Blitz

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Help us extend the summer with one of the island's most joyful weekends. By sponsoring the *Emerald Isle Irish Féile*, you're not just supporting music and celebration—you're strengthening the bond between Arranmore and Beaver Island and keeping our Irish heritage alive for generations to come.

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BEAVER ISLAND CURRACH BUILDING PROJECT

By Kathleen (Kitty) McNamara

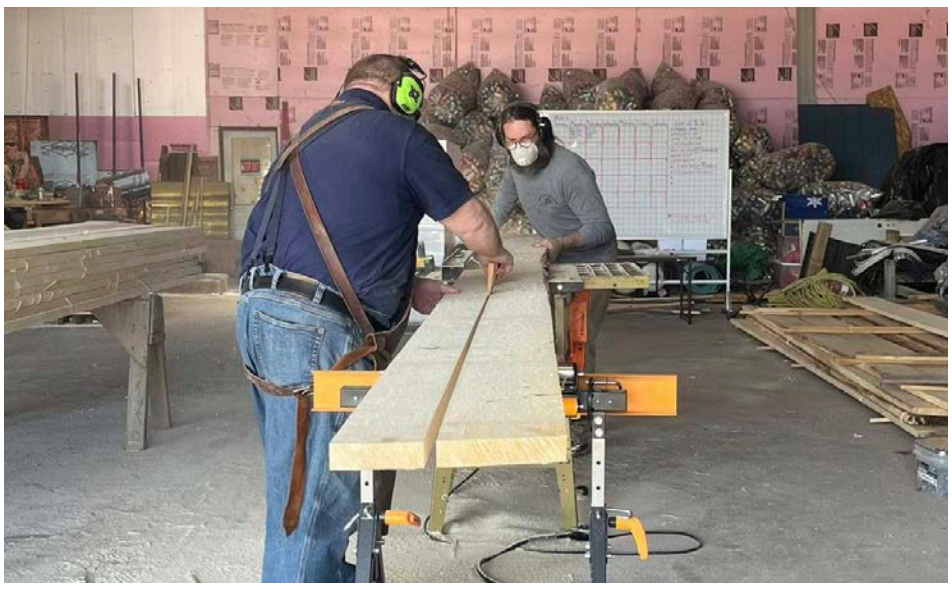
The Irish Currach Club of Beaver Island operates as a committee of the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group. Membership, interest, and enthusiasm for the club continue to grow. Among the core group of members are some who have been with the club since its humble beginnings in 2019, when the Irish Currach Club of Milwaukee brought two currachs and ten members to the inaugural Emerald Isle Irish Féile. The currachs were a huge success at the féile, generating so much local enthusiasm that the Milwaukee club left a boat on Beaver Island to encourage the development of a local currach club.

Thus, the Beaver Island club was born. For several years, the club continued to use the Milwaukee currach while members built their skills and participated in races against Milwaukee at the féile each September.

In 2024, the Milwaukee club took their loaned boat back, leaving the Beaver Island club at a crossroads: disband the club or figure out a way to build or buy its own boats. The group held an informational meeting to gauge community interest and decide how to move forward. The response was tremendous, and a plan was hatched to build not one but two boats. This would allow for more fun practices and the ability to hold races on Beaver Island all summer.

Generous donors Lisa Gillespie, Don & Amy Langford, and Sharon Henry-Warren provided the capital to build the boats, under the direction of local boat builder and club member Dan Burton.

Operating with two currachs will allow the club to fully embrace its goals: connecting the Island to the nautical heritage of Ireland, introducing the Beaver Island community to currach racing in North America and other Irish American communities, and providing healthy leisure activities for its members.



Beaver Island boat builder Dan Burton is leading the construction of two currachs with the assistance of nearly a dozen club members. The boat design is inspired by a trip that Dan Burton and club president Kitty McNamara took to Pittsburgh to meet elderly Irish-born currach builder Joe Mulkerrin, whose son-in-law leads the Pittsburgh Irish Rowing Club. Dan and Joe connected well, sharing plans, discussing material lists, and capturing pictures and videos to guide the building process.

The building has commenced, and the club is constructing two boats like the Pittsburgh designs. Materials have been collected, and the group held its initial building session in early May. As of mid-May, 200 poplar stringers have been cut and bundled for later use. Dan has already started working on the seats, which are essential to the boat's structure. Nearly a dozen club members are on the work schedule, contributing through skilled carpentry, sanding, and painting.

Thanks to St James Township, the group has a fantastic workspace in the Marina North pole barn, where the crew can be found working in the late afternoons. The project will continue through May and June, aiming to have the boats ready for the water by July 4th. Special thanks also go to Rich Gillespie and his crew for providing the Beaver Island poplar and oak lumber used for the boat framing.

Visit *https://www.irishfeile.com/irish-currach-club-of-beaver-island/* to beome a member of the club!

BEAVER ISLAND WORKFORCE HOUSING UPDATE

By Bobbi Welke

As many currently on the Island may have noticed, the Beaver Island Workforce Housing project is well underway. The owners, the Ebersoldt family, have shared that the 12-residence project is still tracking towards an early fall completion.

From late May to late June the completed prefabricated custom modules will begin arriving via barge. They will be transported to the Karnes Woods site and will be set in place by a crane. Utility hook-ups, stairs, patios, and finish site work will then be ongoing throughout the summer.

In mid-summer a website will be provided for the community and potential renters the opportunity to learn more about the project, its rental requirements, and timing for completion. Visitors will be able to contact management at that time for specific information and to express interest in renting.

Excitement is building for the opportunity for the project to address the longstanding need to provide longer term high-quality housing. Partially funded by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's Michigan Neighborhoods program, the project strives to provide a reasonably affordable housing option for permanent year-round residents while prioritizing housing for full-time members of the workforce.

Any preliminary questions or inquiries can be directed to Vince Ebersoldt at v*ebersoldt@eplusa-arch.com* prior to the website going live.

CHIME IN ON WAVE ENERGY, SOLAR, AND CONSERVATION

By Beth Croswhite

WHAT MIGHT BE BEAVER ISLAND'S SMART ENERGY FUTURE?

Are you concerned about more ice storms, energy outages, and climate change? What are the energy conservation, solar, and other smart energy solutions that might best suit Beaver Island?

On Tuesday, June 17, Central Michigan University (CMU) Biological Station will host a series of presenters who have studied the Island's energy needs and will present several different options. Come join us for these exciting presentations! This will include an open community discussion about our various choices—a perfect opportunity for Islanders to "weigh in" on what is both desirable and what is practical for Beaver Island's energy future prototypes.

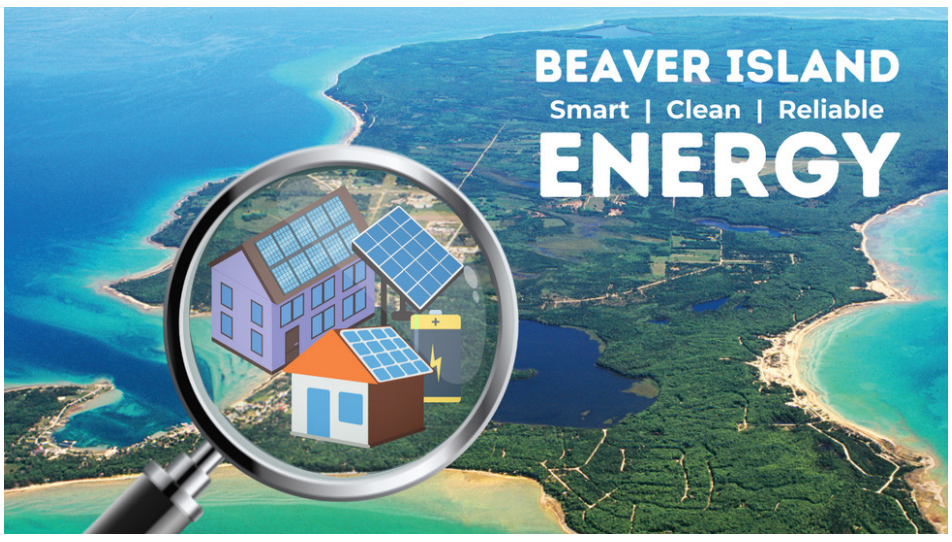
WHAT IS WAVE ENERGY?

Wave energy is the process of creating various devices that are used in large bodies of water, i.e. oceans and lakes, to utilize the energy created by waves to generate electricity. The University of Michigan Wave Energy team received a grant from the National Science Foundation (AWD: 2428196): "Collaborative Research: GCR: Engineering, Socio-Environmental and Economic Convergence of Ocean Wave Energy Research for Remote Coastal Communities."

The Wave Energy Research Team has been to the Island several times presenting possible prototypes to use in Lake Michigan. They hope to find a suitable spot on Beaver Island to test these prototypes.

Some of the team, including Dr. Eric Wade of East Carolina University, Wanchese, NC; Prof. Lindsay Dubbs of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and Doctoral Candidate Vishnu Vijayayasankar, of University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; arrived on the Island April 13-15, 2025. The team met with each Township Supervisor to discuss research options on the Island. They met with the director of the CMU Biological Station, Kevin Pangle, receiving valuable Island knowledge and support. The team then participated in an Island "Boodle" seeking possible research locations.

This Wave Energy Team will return to Beaver Island the week of July 13-19. They want to see the difference in population from early Spring to the heat of the Summer tourism season. They are planning a few community meetings in July to discuss and answer questions about Wave Energy Research on Beaver Island. Date & times of these meetings during this week TBA. Watch for upcoming publicity.



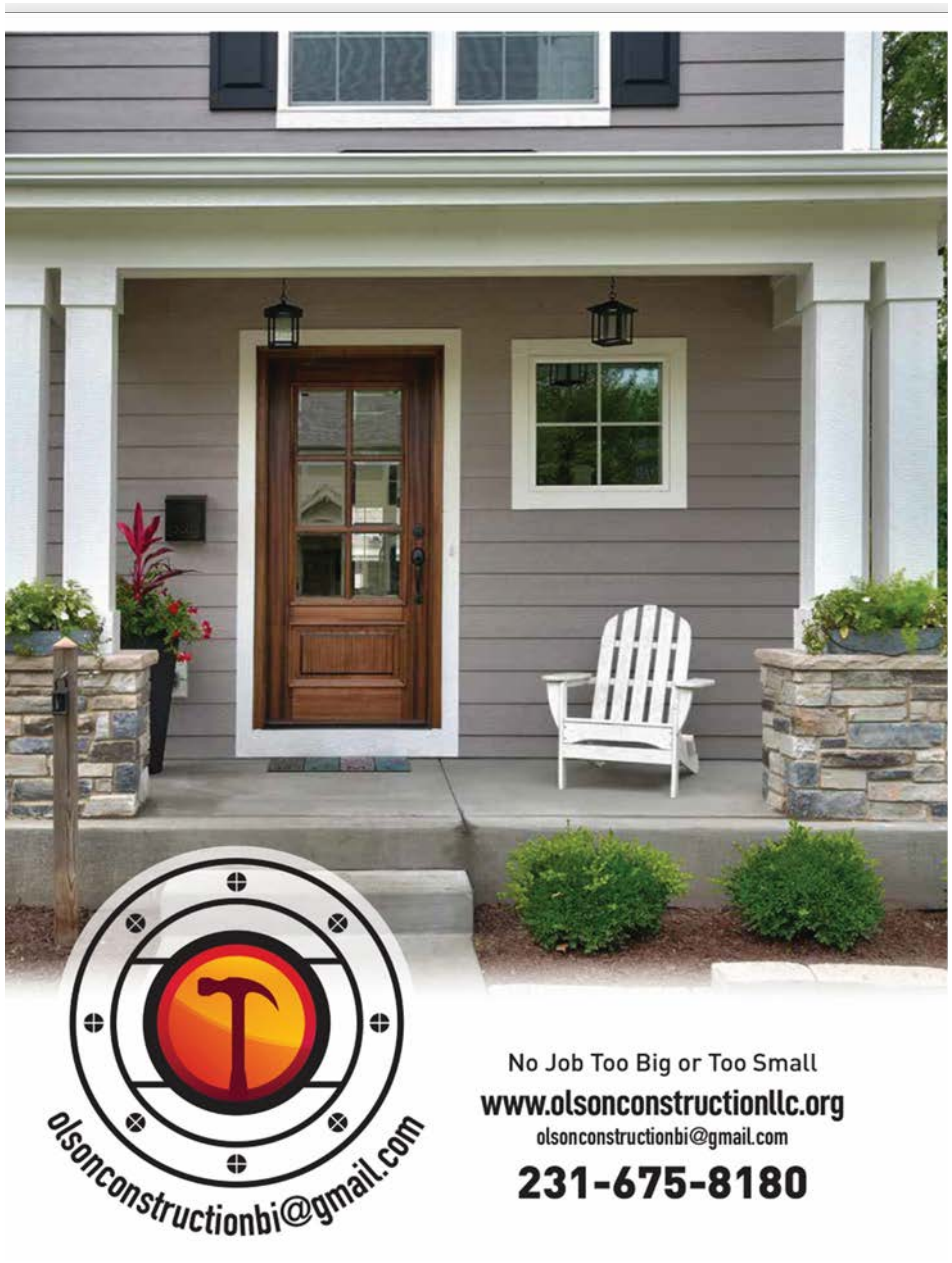
JOIN US AT THE 10TH ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

The University of Michigan Wave Energy team will again be participating in the 10th Annual Sustainability Fair, June 16-21, 2025. They will present and demonstrate prototypes and answer questions at the CMU Bio Station Auditorium on June 17, at 3:00 p.m.

During the week of the Sustainability Fair, June 17 will be designated as the "Energy Day". All presentations that day will be at the CMU Bio Station Auditorium.

- **3:00 p.m.** University of Michigan Wave Energy Research & Demonstration, including Vishnu Vijayayasankar
- **7:00 p.m.** ETIPP (Energy Technology Innovation Partnership Project) grant final report of renewable and sustainable energy for Beaver Island by Marcy Whitfield of PNNL (Pacific Northwest National Laboratories)
- **8:00 p.m.** Presented by T.J. Brown (Keen Energy) sharing findings and recommendations for energy efficiency improvements in non-residential buildings
- **8:30 p.m.** Residential Energy Use and Incentives Presented by Doug Ahl (Slipstream Group, Inc.) Overview of energy use basics, climate related energy trends and available incentives and tips for residential upgrades

Hope to see you at the Sustainability Fair!



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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
FEATURING LISA KUNZ FRANZ
By Lois Stipp

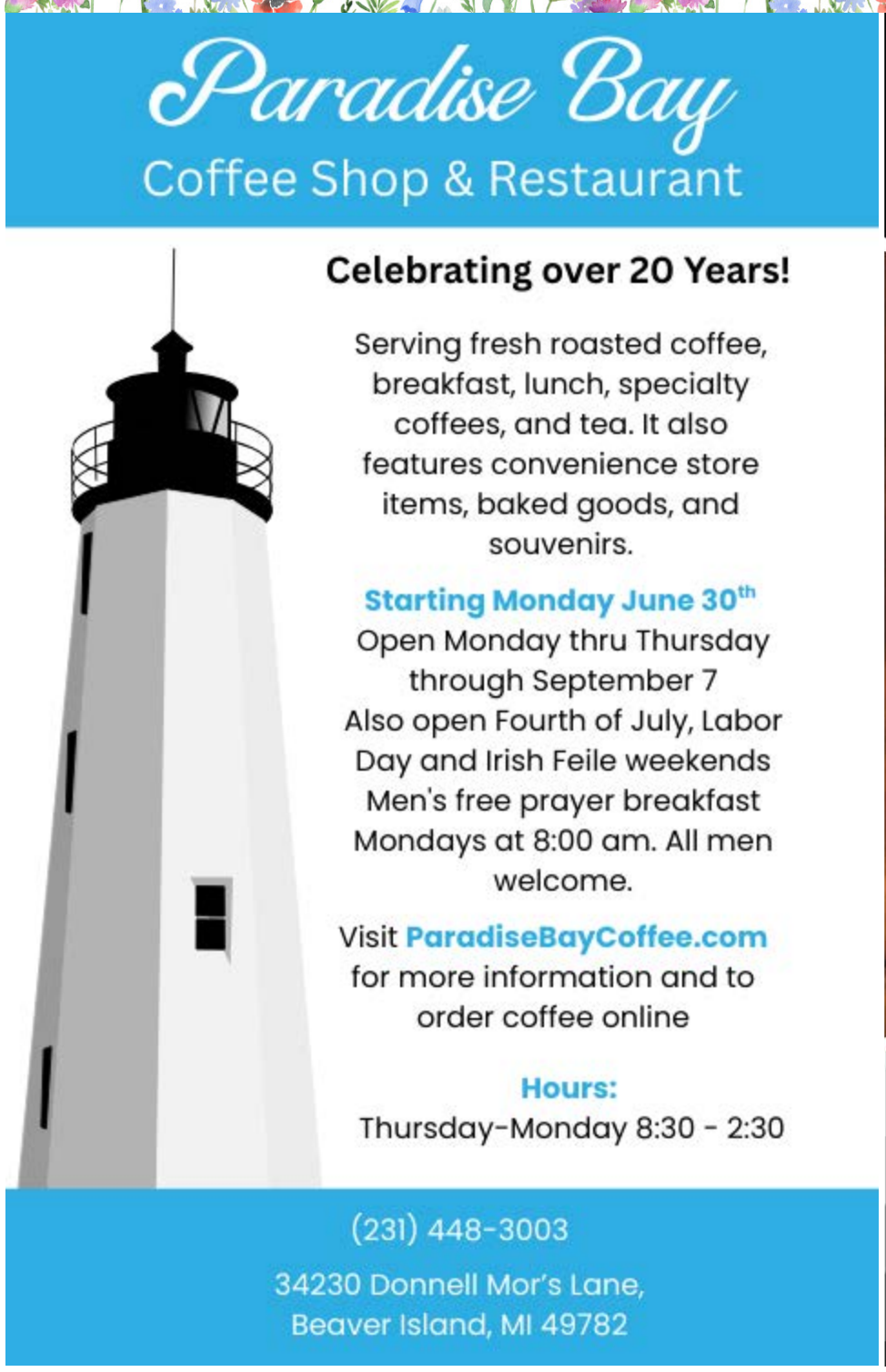
Lisa Kunz Franz, a relatively new resident of Beaver Island, has become a vital volunteer within the community. Her journey to the Island began in 2021 when an unexpected change of plans altered her original destination. Initially set on visiting Isle Royale, she pivoted when COVID restrictions interfered. From the moment she stepped off the ferry, she found herself captivated—by the warm and welcoming people, the Island's rich history, and its breathtaking natural beauty.

Just two weeks after that first visit Lisa and her husband (Mark) returned, and soon, they made the life-changing decision to move here. "After 25 years in the Air Force, always going where we were stationed, we finally got to choose—and we chose Beaver Island." Lisa reflected, and continued "Beaver Island welcomed me, inspired me, and gave me purpose; through service, I hope to return the kindness and preserve the magic of this special place."

Volunteering quickly became a way to connect with the community. Whether rowing with the Currach Club, helping at Island Treasures Resale, tending the Wellness Garden, or supporting the local school as a substitute teacher, Lisa found ways to give back. She joined the Beaver Island Archipelago Trail Association and the Commission on Aging Advisory Committee, became treasurer of the AMVETS chapter, and got involved in township governance to help shape and sustain the Island she now calls home.

In Lisa's own words, "To me volunteers are the heartbeat of any community. On Beaver Island, I volunteer because I want to help shape and sustain the kind of place I want to spend the rest of my life in. Giving my time and energy in one small way I can invest in the future of this Island and the people who make it so special."

If you have content you would like to share for review, contact the editor of the Northern Islander
Phone: (231) 622-2192
Email: Editor@beaverislandhistory.org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AMIKOOMIS ANISHINAABEK CORNER

By Melissa Wiatrolik

ANISHINAABE REGALIA AND DANCE STYLES: *AN EVENING OF TRADITION, DANCE, AND COMMUNITY ON BEAVER ISLAND*

The Beaver Island Historical Society recently hosted a memorable evening dedicated to preserving the history of Beaver Island and celebrating the vibrant traditions of the Anishinaabe people. I was given the opportunity to present on "Anishinaabe Regalia", honored to have the opportunity to assist in preserving Beaver Island's heritage and sharing Anishinaabe cultural traditions.

The celebration coincided with the second anniversary of the beloved Northern Islander newspaper and a special member appreciation night. Guests were invited to connect with Board Members, the Editorial Team, and staff while enjoying an engaging presentation on Anishinaabe regalia and dance styles—a cornerstone of the Anishinaabe culture.

ANISHINAABE REGALIA: TRADITIONS ALIVE

Anishinaabe regalia is the traditional attire worn by members of the Anishinaabe community during Pow wows and ceremonies. These garments are not merely decorative; they hold deep symbolic meaning, representing the lineage and personal significance for each dancer. Each article of attire embodies ancestral connections and serves as a bridge between generations.

WOMEN'S DANCE STYLES

Anishinaabe women's dances are as diverse as they are reflective, each style honoring unique aspects of the culture and heritage:

WOMEN'S TRADITIONAL DANCE
The oldest form of dance for women, the Traditional dance reflects the deep connection between women and Mother Earth. The dancers' feet remain close to the ground, a symbolic gesture that pays homage to this sacred bond. These women are often referred to as the "backbone of our nation," a testament to their spiritual and cultural significance.

WOMEN'S JINGLE DRESS DANCE
Steeped in healing traditions, the Jingle Dress dance originated from the dream of an Ojibwe woman who sought to heal her people. The dress is adorned with 365 tin or copper cones, each representing a day of the year. As the dancers move, the cones release prayers into the world, symbolizing hope and healing.

WOMEN'S FANCY SHAWL DANCE
Often called the "Butterfly Dance," this vibrant and energetic style emerged in the mid-20th century. Dancers wear brightly colored shawls and intricately beaded dresses, creating an awe-inspiring display of beauty and movement. Their dazzling footwork and spins evoke the image of a butterfly in flight, celebrating transformation and grace.

MEN'S DANCE STYLES

The men's dances of the Anishinaabe community are equally rich in tradition and storytelling, each style offering a glimpse into the history and spirituality of the culture:

MEN'S TRADITIONAL DANCE
This is the oldest form of dance for men, often narrating the story of Creation and the naming of all things on Mother Earth. Other traditional dances recount tales of combat and hunting, blending historical narratives with spiritual reverence.

MEN'S GRASS DANCE
Rooted in the traditions of Woodland and Plains tribes, the Grass Dance was historically performed by members of Grass Dance Societies responsible for preparing ceremonial clearings. Today, the dance continues as a vibrant tradition, with regalia designed to mimic the movement of blowing grass, a reflection of harmony with nature.

MEN'S FANCY FEATHER DANCE
Known for its high-energy performances, the Fancy Feather dance is a more contemporary style that showcases the dancer's agility and endurance. Adorned with elaborate feathered regalia, these dancers captivate audiences with their dynamic movements and vibrant displays.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JIINGTAMOKS (POW WOWS)

Pow wows remain at the heart of Anishinaabe culture, serving as vital gatherings where traditions and identities are expressed with pride. They are not simply celebratory events but opportunities for community building and harmony among Anishinaabe peoples. Through regalia, dance, and storytelling, Pow wows foster a sense of unity and preservation of cultural heritage.

IN CONCLUSION

The evening hosted by the Beaver Island Historical Society was a testament to the enduring spirit and vibrant traditions of the Anishinaabe people. Through the exploration of regalia, dance, and cultural practices, attendees were given a unique opportunity to connect with the rich history and spiritual depth of this remarkable community. Events like these not only preserve history but also inspire a deeper appreciation for the diverse cultural fabric that defines Beaver Island.

THE TOY BOXES RETURN

By Jennifer Welch

The Beach Toy Boxes will return for the season at the beach in town and Iron Ore Bay from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

We have enough toys to stock both boxes due to the generous donations that remain from last year.

Two simple rules:

1. Pick a toy, play, then return the item(s) to the toy boxes.
2. Have fun.

Thanks to so many community members who have picked up toys remaining on the beach over night. Let's do better this year by helping keep the beaches clean!

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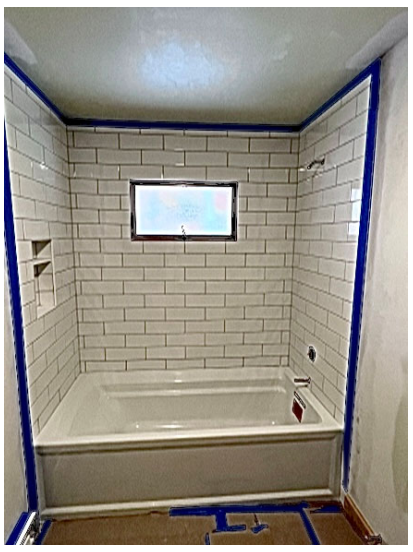

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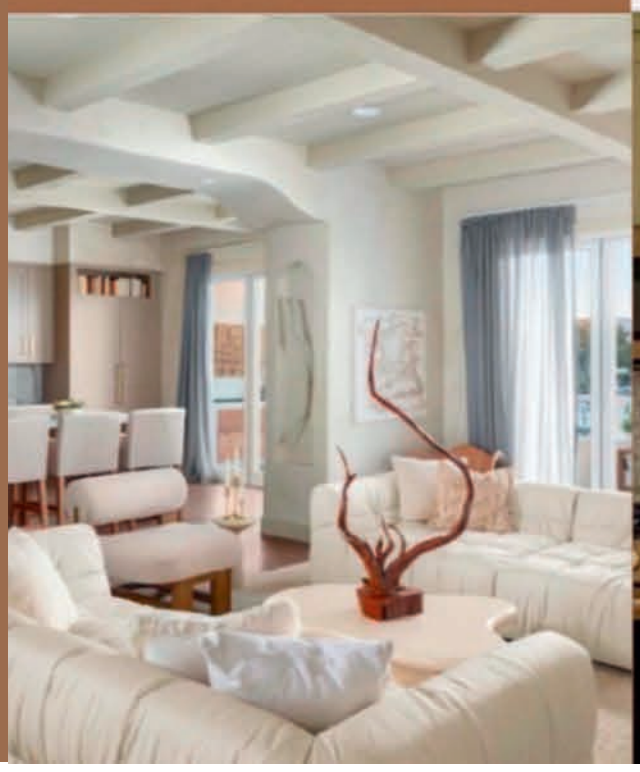

NEWS FROM THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

By Robert Cole

The Island's busy season has officially begun, with tourists arriving and summer events popping up everywhere. June is also when the Community Center's program season kicks off, this month offering locals and visitors alike great music, educational fare, and drama and comedy on stage. Read on for the month's highlights, and check out the Community Calendar and our weekly blog for more details at biccenter.org.

June 14 brings *Dad's Rock: Open Mic Night* for Father's Day weekend. Join our fatherly host Herb Ledbetter at an Open Stage for all talent - Dads, kids & community members welcome. Come share a song, a story, or a heartfelt tribute to Dad. Whether he's performing himself or just soaking in the vibes, this will be a night to remember. Sign up in advance at the Community Center, or just show up. Bring your dad, your kids, or your best dad move - this is a Father's Day celebration you won't want to miss!

On June 17 we've got *Let's Get Quizzical!* Trivia Night, which will be in the BIC Center Hangout upstairs—or the Theater, if more than 10 teams register. (Trivia happens only once a month during the summer, so make sure to catch this one!) There is a $25.00 fee for teams to play, and please register beforehand at store.biccenter.org. Maximum number of teammates is 6 people. Please have only one team member register for the entire team. Join us for a night of brain teasers and lots of laughs. Bring a dish to share if you are able to do so—and remember, this is a B.Y.O.B. event so come prepared!

The *10th Annual Beaver Island Sustainability Fair* on June 20-21 honors the Island's First Nations Original Anishinaabe inhabitants and later generations of Irish residents. John Two-Hawks, Irish & Lakota teacher, author, activist, and Native flute player, is the featured guest for this year's Sustainability Fair. You can hear his award-winning native flute playing during his concert at the Beaver Island Community Center on Friday, June 20—a Q&A begins at 7:00 PM, and the concert begins at 7:30 PM. One of the world's preeminent Native Flute artists, John Two-Hawks' music has earned him Grammy and Emmy nominations and been featured in films by Fox Searchlight, HBO, and programs on A&E & The History Channel. On Saturday, June 21 from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon is the *Sustainability Fair Tabling Event*, which will feature representatives & handouts from Island and mainland organizations focused on cultural and environmental work. For more information, visit the Beaver Island Sustainability Initiative on Facebook.

CMU's Summer Theater Program returns to the BIC Center Theater on June 27 & 28. The Summer Theater tasks a small company of students with taking two full length plays on the road to multiple locations across the state, this year bringing both a dark comedy and a beloved musical to our stage. On the 27th is a production of *Plotters*. It's a Grave Business, where infamy, riches, and the darkest secrets of the city collide in this fast-paced comedy by award-winning playwright Brian Parks. A clandestine cabal of grave-robbing misfits attempt their ultimate heist. Will these agents of the night seize the coveted prize—or bury themselves? Then on the 28th the troupe stages with charm, wit, and heart *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, which explores life through the eyes of Charlie Brown and his friends in the Peanuts gang. This revue of songs and vignettes, based on the beloved Charles Schulz comic strip, is the ideal first show for those who would like to see a musical. Musical numbers include My Blanket and Me, The Kite, The Baseball Game, Little Known Facts, Suppertime, and Happiness. Get your tickets at store.biccenter.org. And we'll see you at the Community Center!

BAROQUE ON BEAVER'S 24TH SEASON

By Matt Thomas

Baroque on Beaver's twenty-fourth season will take place July 24–August 2. This beloved annual festival offers a variety of world-class orchestral, chamber, vocal, and jazz performances on Beaver Island, Michigan.

Tickets for all performances will go on sale June 1 and will include new flexible packages available for the entire series or just the evening concerts. You can purchase them in-person at the Beaver Island Community Center (BICC) or their online ticket page: www.biccenter.org.

Highlights of the 2025 Festival include:

- Thursday, July 24 – Lecture: Ready, Set…WAIT! Music Director Robert Nordling and new Associate Conductor Nathan Bieber will surprise you with what it takes to prepare an orchestra for performance and then invite your comments and questions. Don't miss this fascinating behind-the-scenes look at the significant effort that goes into bringing magnificent music to your ears. Light snacks and beer and wine will contribute to a delightful evening.

- Saturday, July 26 – Opening Night Benefit: Canadian pianist Jaeden Izik-Dzurko, winner of the prestigious Leeds Competition, will dazzle you with both his solo performance and accompanied pieces with our esteemed Baroque arists Jamie Crawford on violin and Andrea Yun on cello. This fun-filled evening will start with a pre-concert spread of tasty treats and drinks and end with an array of sweets and champagne catered by Vicky Fingeroot's Bodega Catering. Please note that your benefit ticket price includes a $75 tax-deductible donation to the Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance.

- Wednesday, July 30 – Founders Vocal Concert: Choral music makes its return to Baroque with an all a cappella performance by VoxGR, the premier professional choral ensemble in West Michigan. The group is famous for performing a wide repertoire of choral music stretching across all eras from composers of diverse backgrounds. The Festival's first Ensemble-in-Residence will be conducted by Artistic Director Dr. Christopher Mason.

- Friday, August 1 – Brass on the Bay: Can't get to Whiskey Point on Monday July 28? Need more brass quintets in your life? We're excited to bring you an additional performance of patriotic and popular favorites by Metallurgy Brass to be held at the Donegal Bay Pavilion. We invite you to bring some treats and kick off your weekend's happy hour with us!

- Saturday, August 2 – Finale Concert with Young Soloist Competition Winner: Michigan-based high-school musicians compete annually for the Seiford Prize, with the first-place winner performing alongside the Festival Orchestra. This is always a thrill for the student winner, our orchestra, and our audience. We hope you will join us as we welcome one of classical music's next great artists.

There are many more fabulous offerings during Baroque Week! For our full schedule of performances including dates, times, locations, and ticket purchase information, please visit *www.baroqueonbeaver.org*.

Questions? Email us at *info@baroqueonbeaver.org*.

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GLIMPSE OF PEACE

By Ionna Zeleniuk

Just two weeks ago, I was an active college student caught in a fast-paced, high-stress routine. After living that lifestyle for so long, it becomes second nature, and the hustle starts to consume you. So, the transition to life on Beaver Island felt like a shock to my system, but in the most beneficial way possible.

Upon arriving, you don't just see people, you see individuals who genuinely recognize one another, forming a community grounded in connection and mutual respect. Many of them seem to be living exactly how they want to, whether it's tucked away in the woods or running a small shop or museum, open for all to enjoy.

I had the absolute pleasure of meeting several of these individuals and hearing their stories. It felt as though they were sharing a sense of peace, perhaps the same peace they had absorbed from the wilderness that surrounds them.

Being welcomed by the humid breeze rolling off glistening Lake Michigan under the sun felt no different than meeting and assisting the people of the Island. Beaver Island gave me a deep sense of calm and warmth, thanks to both the community and the natural world around it. It gently slowed my pace and reminded me that, in the end, everything will be okay.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DICKIE MCEVOY

Pictured are Beaver Island Historical Society Executive Director Lori Taylor-Blitz and long time friend Dave Derosia.

During a celebration honoring all of the hard work being done at the Beaver Head Lighthouse this year, a special tribute was made to local Islander Dickie McEvoy for his tireless efforts to bring life back to the lighthouse.

FURBABIES OF BEAVER ISLAND

By Glen Felix

MY GIRL PEARL

Several years ago, some unknown person deposited a tiny kitten, at night, in front of Mary's toy store. The next day, Mary went out to see what all of the screeching was about. You wouldn't believe how much noise a tiny kitten could make. The guy who went with Mary got bit by trying to catch it. She, Mary, called me—I opened a can of tuna fish, and went out to see what I could do.

The poor tiny little thing was wet, scared, and starving. Hiding in the cold wet weeds, I saw two tiny eyes peeking out at me. I put the can of fish down and waited. It wasn't long before she dove into it with eyes peeled up at me. She ate almost half of the can, which was a lot considering her size. She walked right up to me, so I picked her up, held her in my arms, and listened to the tiny purring. That was it…

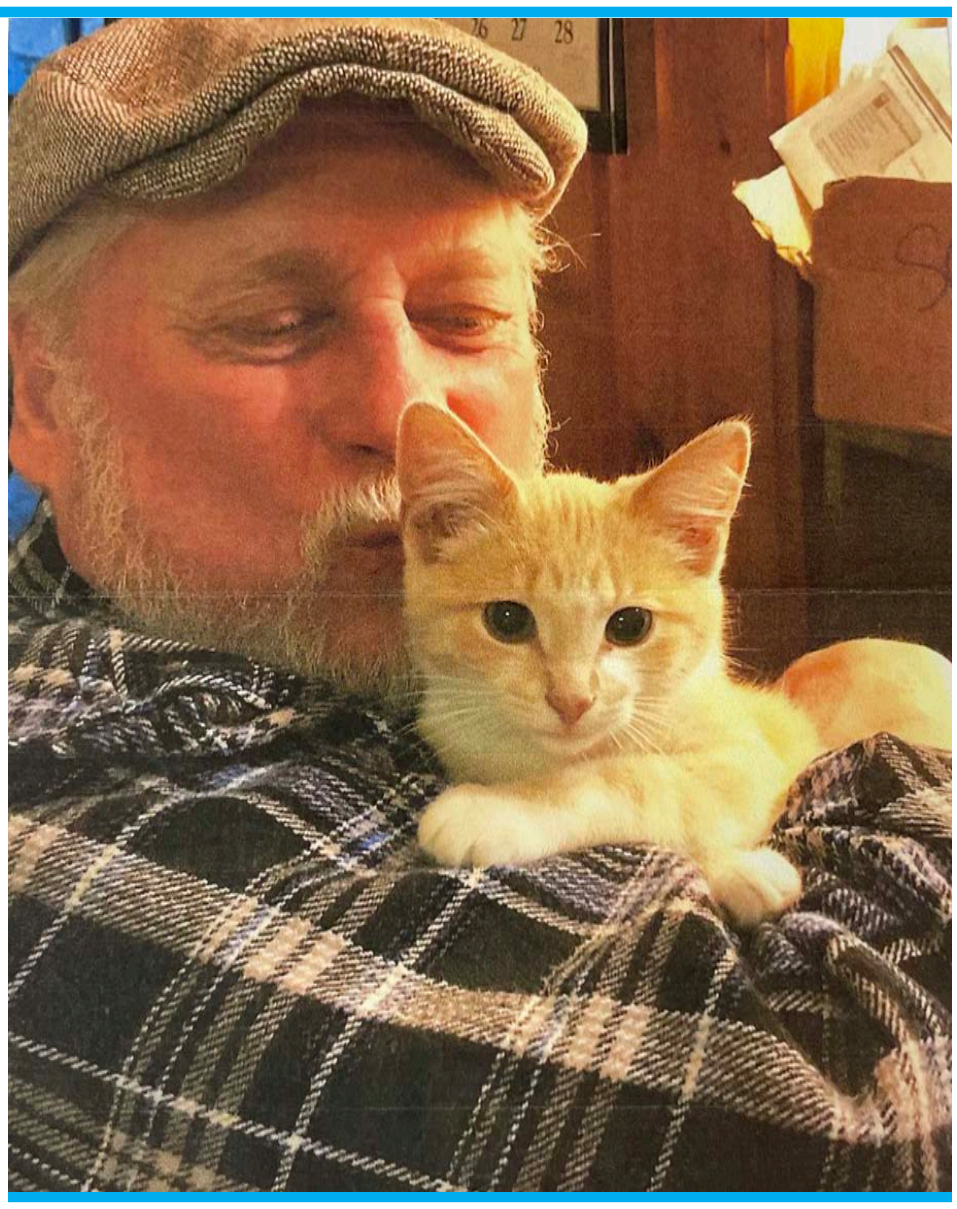
Mary said, "I guess you got yourself a cat"—coming from a complete dog nut. When they love you, dog or cat, that is it over and out… She got along with Opie, our old Tom, or I should say he got along with her. After he passed on a few years later, she needed a pal. So, we got Felix.

What else? A little black cat, a nice little guy when he is not ballistic like everywhere you didn't want him. One minute they are tusslin, the next they're cleaning parts. We don't let either one out because there are coyotes out back. Enough said.

Well as luck would have it, she slipped out unbeknownst to us… That night… no Pearl. Searched the house, and still no Pearl. For the nine days she was gone, poor little Felix was lost—heart broken along with us. Then, one afternoon, Mary heard a faint meow way outback. She came home. She's okay. All is okay.

Thanks for your thoughts.

Respectfully,
Capt. Glen



CHARLEVOIX COUNTY SYNOPSIS - MAY 14

By Julia A. Drost

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on May 14, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Five Commissioners were present. Excused: Commissioner Kenney.

Motion approved the agenda, as amended.

Motion approved the closed session minutes of April 23, 2025, as presented. Motion approved the consent agenda, as presented.

Motion approved the resignation of Anna McGlashen from the Planning Commission.

Motion approved the appointment of James Clark to the Charlevoix County Commission on Aging Advisory Board.

Motion approved Resolution #25-057, Accepting Donations of Money or Property to Charlevoix County.

Motion approved Resolution #25-058, Authorization of the Adoption of the 2024 Charlevoix County Michigan Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan – 5 Year Update.

Motion approved Resolution #25-059, Network Video Recording Purchase.

Motion approved Resolution #25-060, Equalization Plotter.

Motion approved Resolution #25-061, Dump Trailer Purchase.

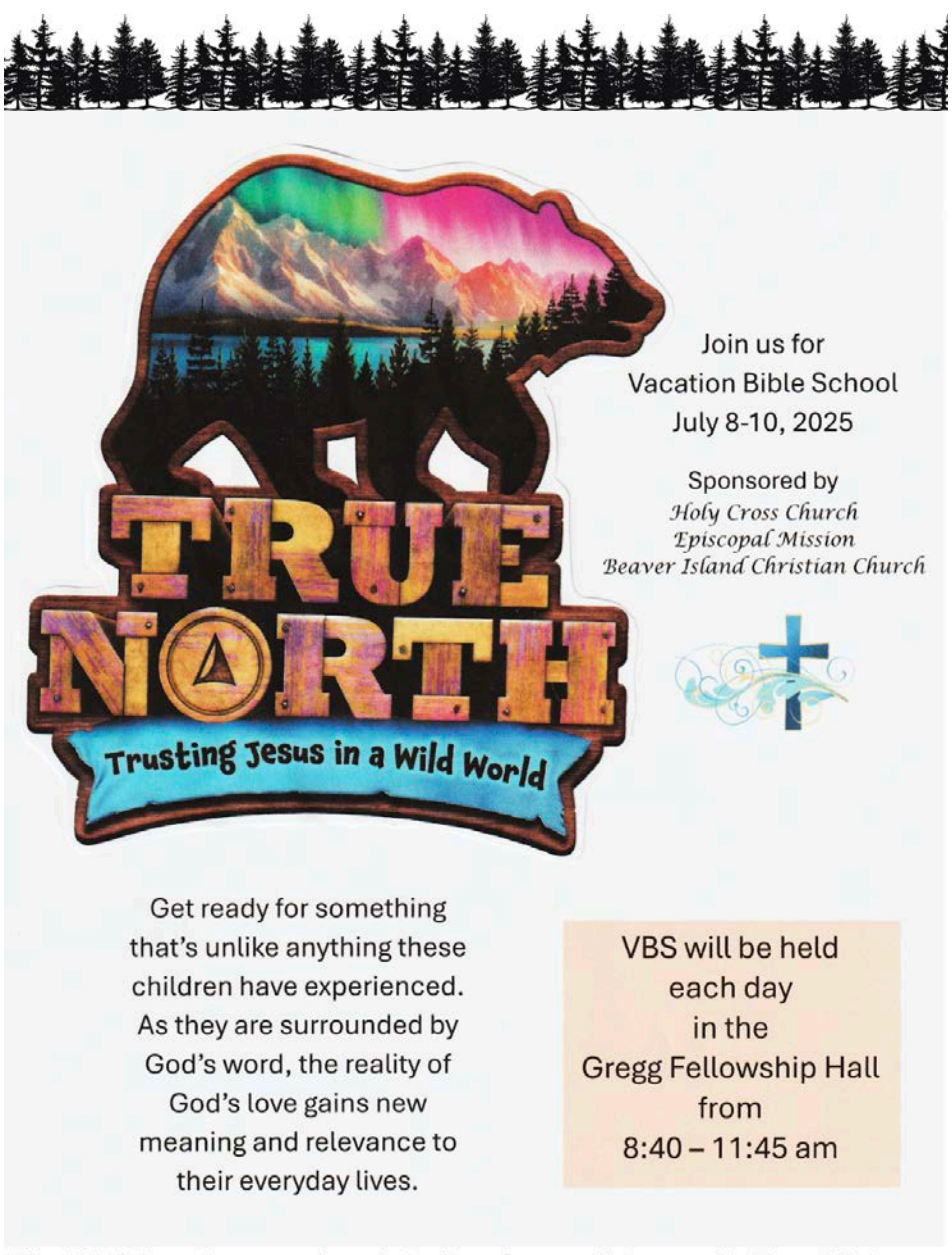
Motion approved Resolution #25-062, Shirley Roloff Center Fire Alarm Control Panel.

Motion approved Resolution #25-063, 2025 Summer Tax Millage Rate Request.

Motion approved Resolution #25-064, Charlevoix County Materials Management Plan FY2025 Work Program.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 10:55 a.m.

Complete copies of the Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.


Join us for
Vacation Bible School
July 8-10, 2025
Sponsored by
Holy Cross Church
Episcopal Mission
Beaver Island Christian Church
TRUE NORTH
Trusting Jesus in a Wild World
Get ready for something that's unlike anything these children have experienced. As they are surrounded by God's word, the reality of God's love gains new meaning and relevance to their everyday lives.
VBS will be held each day in the Gregg Fellowship Hall from 8:40 – 11:45 am

The VBS brochure and registration form will be available mid June.

IN MEMORY OF RICHIE O'DONNELL

Submitted by Diane Westmaas

Richard Daniel O'Donnell, 91, passed away February 18, 2025 in Wyoming, Michigan. Richie O was surrounded by his family, listening to "Green Green Grass of Home". Richie was born on August 27, 1933 to parents Frank and Helen "Nellie" O'Donnell. He has gone to join his wife of 56 years, Teresa Janet (Gallagher), who preceded him in death.

He was raised on the family farm on Beaver Island. He attended Saint James High School, where he met his high school sweetheart and future wife, Janet. They graduated together in 1952. He then went to Chicago for work but was soon drafted with his twin brother, Ronnie, into the U.S. Army in 1953. Following basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky with the Special Training Regiment in the 509th Armored Field Artillery Battalion of the 3rd Armored Division, they were shipped overseas as part of the 512th Engineer Truck Company near the end of the Korean War. Richie rose to the level of Corporal and was responsible for the maintenance and dispatching for the fleet vehicles. He earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation. He was separated from active duty on March 22, 1955 at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, and later Honorably Discharged.

Richie returned stateside settling in Grand Rapids to be near Janet, the love of his life, who was attending Aquinas College. He began a long career as a route salesman where he made many lifelong friends from the entire West Michigan area. As a Teamster, he remained accident-free his entire 36 years working at Superior Linen, then Model Linen, later named Grantex Textile Company.

Richie married Janet on July 5, 1958. They were the first couple to be married at Holy Cross Catholic Church's current downtown location after relocating from the country. They made their home in Wyoming, Michigan, raising six children. As a parishioner at Saint John Vianney Catholic Church, Richie was very active at both the church and school; as an usher, a sports booster, and a Knights of Columbus member. You would find him running the bingo, helping with paper drives, all the while attending many many of his children's sporting events.

He was an original member of the Beaver Island Club of Grand Rapids, hosting the first meeting at their home. The first party was held in 1966. Over the Club's 51 years in existence, they provided contributions to countless Beaver Island projects and organizations.

Richie retired in 1993 and returned home to the Frank Danny Barney Homestead on Beaver Island. He and Janet became parishioners of Holy Cross Catholic Church. He cultivated parts of the old farmland and began raising pigs. Richie spoke fondly of his work alongside cousin Johnny Jewel Gillespie on the American Girl for ten years. Richie and Janet enjoyed spending many of their winters in Port Charlotte, Florida among other Beaver Islanders. After Janet's passing, Richie remained on Beaver Island year round.

Richie is survived by his children, Diane (David) Westmaas of Allendale, Michael (Anne) O'Donnell of Traverse City, Judy (Michael) Crowell of Lake Saint Louis, MO, William (Kendra) O'Donnell, Barbara Flowers of Kentwood and Ronda (Curt) Alber of Rockford; Grandchildren Charlie (Dezarae Loudin) Flipse, Kelly (Al) Krikke, Josh (Jaclyn), Heather and Ronnie O'Donnell, Olivia, Chrissy and Brendan Crowell, Lindsey and Megan O'Donnell, Brittney, Garritt, Kaleigh (David Phillips-Lynch), Colton, and Janessa Flowers; Great-grandchildren Raeleigh DeVowe, Jordan and Ellie Krikke; Sisters Beverly (Gary) Cantwell of Beaver Island and Carol (Doug) Bunting of Charlevoix; his Sister-in-law, Eleanor McDonough of Charlevoix; Brother-in-law Bob Bass of Beaver Island along with numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his twin brother Ronald "Ronnie", younger brother Charles, and sister Margaret "Muggs" Bass; and In-Laws Glen McDonough, Alex "Gus" Walgus, Brian and Dee Gallagher; as well as his Granddaughters Bailey Lott-O'Donnell and Nadia Flowers.

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